

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /152 W
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R 161540Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7880

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CY, XF

SUBJECT: CYPRUS AND THE MID EAST WAR: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: FBIS M151530Z

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS FOCUSING ON US AND USSR SUPPLY FLIGHTS
TO MID EAST AND RECENT MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS OFF SOUTHERN
COAST OF ISLAND. TONE NOT MARKEDLY ANTI-AMERICAN. END SUMMARY.

1. US-USSR FLIGHTS. PIO BRIEFED GREEK PRESS OCT 15
ON RECENT AEROFLOT AND US MILITARY FLIGHTS IN CYPRUS AREA.
TODAY'S PRESS ACCORDINGLY REPORTS THAT AEROFLOT PLANES HAD OVER-
FLOWN CYPRUS OCT 8 AND 9 BUT SINCE OCT 10 HAD FLOWN THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL AIR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CYPRIOT AIRSPACE. MOREOVER,
ON OCT 14 US PLANES HAD FLOWN THROUGH AIR CORRIDORS "EVIDENTLY"
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TOWARD ISRAEL. PIO CLAIMED IN ALL CASES THAT PLANES HAD NOTIFIED

GOVT CONTROL TOWER IN ACCORDANCE NORMAL PROCEDURES. HE DECLINED REVEAL FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS OR NUMBER OF PLANES INVOLVED, THOUGH SOME PRESS NOTE NUMBER OF SOVIET PLANES LARGER. ("AGON" REPORTS 10-15 PER HOUR OCT 15 IN CYPRUS AIRSPACE.) IN SAME CONNECTION, ALL PAPERS CARRY WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE OF MCCLOSKEY BRIEFING RE RATIONALE FOR US SUPPLY FLIGHTS.

2. MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS OFF SOUTHERN COAST. GREEK PRESS PLAYS UP OFFICIALLY-SOURCED COMMENTS RE MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS WHICH OCCURRED AFTERNOON OCT 14 IN SEA CLOSE TO SOUTHERN COAST (LARNACA-LIMASSOL-AND EVEN FAMAGUSTA). VARIOUS SPECULATION THAT PLANES OF UNKNOWN NATIONALITY HAD JETTISONED BOMBS; PRO-GOVT "PHILELEFTHEROS" QUOTES EYEWITNESSES CLAIMING TO HAVE SMELLED "NAPALM" AND TO HAVE SEEN PLANES HEADING IN DIRECTION AKROTIRI SBA AFTER EXPLOSIONS. (POLICE SOURCES CONFIRM TO US ONLY THAT EXPLOSIONS IN SEA DID OCCUR.) MOST PAPERS, INCLUDING COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI", REPORT UK DENIALS THAT ANY PLANES FROM SBA'S INVOLVED. IN RATHER IMAGINATIVE GARBLE OF EXPLOSIONS STORY, USUALLY BALANCED "AGON" (PRO-UP) IRRESPONSIBLY STATES IN LEAD PARA THAT US PHANTOMS HAD DROPPED TWO BOMBS EARLY SQNDAY MORNING PRIOR LANDING AKROTIRI.

3. MEANWHILE, OCT 16 PAPERS ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF COMMITTEE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ARAB PEOPLES, HEADED BY AKEL DEPUTY SAVVIDES, WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS MOBILIZE ISLAND OPINION FOR ARABS AND GATHER MONEY, DRUGS, AND BLOOD FOR THEIR CAUSE.

4. ONLY EDIT WAS PREDICTABLE ANTI-U.S. DIATRIBE IN COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI."
GRANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI02142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731029/aaaaavin.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBIS M151530Z
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <14-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS AND THE MID EAST WAR: PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PFOR, CY, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005